

Philip May opens community hall

Sonning: Prime Minister and husband patrons of St Andrew's

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THE PRIME Minister's husband Philip May opened a new half-a-million-pound community hall at St Andrew's Church in Sonning on Sunday.

There was a special service with about 400 people attending, including the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, who dedicated the building and new parish office.

Theresa May, a patron of the church, was due to attend the ceremony herself but arrived earlier in the morning to take communion and hold a private opening for the hall due to general election commitments.

The Prime Minister and her husband have been worshipping at the church in Thames Street since she won her constituency seat nearly 20 years ago.

It was left to Philip May, who is

SPEED READ: Hundreds of people attended the opening of a new community hall at a church in Sonning of which the Prime Minister is a patron on Sunday. The Prime Minister's husband unveiled a plaque at the event after a dedication by a former Archbishop of Canterbury.

also a patron, to unveil a plaque at the new hall, called The Ark.

Reverend Jamie Taylor said: "We need space for our new outreach programme which will include a pensioners' lunch club and youth club and also for our growing Sunday school.

"The Ark has given us the facilities we need and we now look forward to getting started."

Speaking after the service Philip said: "It was a lovely service.

"When I heard it was the culmination of nearly eight years work I was surprised.

"It's a great thing, as it offers the whole community a place to come together, and they have done such a fantastic job.

He added: "I'm sorry she's not here obviously, but as I'm sure you can appreciate it's difficult with the general election."

The church raised £521,000 over the last three years to fund the building of the hall, including two significant gifts totaling £150,000 from the Cayo Foundation and the David Brownlow Charitable Foundation, which were used to pay off a loan the church had taken out to help fund the project.



SUNDAY SERVICE: Mr May, Reverend Taylor, Lord Carey and several members of the church choir outside the new hall. Ref: 128059-3.

'I'm an alternative Conservative'



ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATIVE: Julian Reid is getting ready to stand in the election.

MAIDENHEAD: A businessman who has grown disillusioned with the Conservative Party is set to stand for election in Maidenhead for The Just Political Party.

Julian Reid, a 72-year-old who works in financial services, describes himself as an 'alternative Conservative'.

He said: "I have come to the conclusion that unless you are in support of hard Brexit or the third runway at Heathrow you've got nobody to vote for.

"Flip-flop May as I call her is not the person to be negotiating Brexit.

"I think people in Maidenhead deserve to have an alternative Conservative contestant."

The party was founded in 2014 by Chris Challis, 52, from Ascot, and aims to be a 'truly centrist party option to voters'.

Chris said: "The Just Political Party was founded to provide voters with the positive choice if you believe in a strong economy and a caring society."

Mr Reid lives in Windsor Great Park with wife Rosa and has two adult children, Sarah and Thomas.

www.thejustparty.org.uk

News in Brief

Builder rescued from site

TOWN CENTRE: A worker in his 50s had to be rescued from a building site in Shoppenhangers Road last week.

Firefighters and paramedics worked together to rescue the man, who had begun to feel unwell while working at height.

The man was located 16ft off the ground and a specialist Aerial Ladder Platform from Whitley Wood Fire station was used during the rescue on Thursday, May 4.

Crews from Maidenhead Fire Station used the ALP hydraulic platform to reach the man, and a paramedic went on the platform so the man could be assessed quickly and receive treatment.

Lincoln Ball, station manager at Maidenhead fire station, said: "We worked well with our colleagues in South Central Ambulance Service to put the plan together, making use of our specialist aerial ladder platform for the rescue.

"The rescue went as we had planned, so now we would just like to wish the gentleman involved in this incident well."

The man was taken to Wexham Park Hospital by the South Central Ambulance Service.

Radio 2 live broadcast

MAIDENHEAD: BBC Radio Two will be broadcasting live from Maidenhead for a general election special.

Jeremy Vine will host his weekday show from the town on Tuesday as Britain prepares to head to the polls next month.

Maidenhead has been chosen as it is the constituency of Prime Minister Theresa May. Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn's Islington constituency will also be visited for a separate edition.

The Jeremy Vine Show is on BBC Radio Two, Monday-Friday, at noon-2pm.

Labour candidate launches election campaign



HAT IN THE RING: Pat McDonald with supporters Bob Horner, Andy Goss, Ray Beale and Wendy Beale. Ref: 128052-1

MAIDENHEAD: Labour candidate Pat McDonald was in a fighting mood on Saturday as he challenged Theresa May to a debate at the launch of his election campaign in the High Street.

The 62-year-old, from Woodlands Park, was determined in the face of the previous day's local election results that saw Labour lose 382 council seats.

He said: "The problem is Theresa May is not really speaking to the media so I would like the chance for a debate with the Prime Minister at some point."

On the general election campaign he added: "I think it's been a personality contest so far, but once the manifesto is out you will see us campaigning on policies and promises and I think that will make a huge difference."

Party member Graham Lee, from North Town, admitted Labour was still trying to work out what happened with the local election results but said: "We've been here before and we will work together to fix it.

"We need to move away from making it another referendum and talk about the issues - housing, schools, the NHS - and remind people how the cuts are hurting them."

Bob Horner, 70, a Cox Green resident and life-long Labour supporter added: "If you want to see what Tory Britain looks like just look at the state of the roads in Maidenhead."

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